

DOCUMENTS

OF THE

Christian Commission,

1862.

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U.S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION

FOR

THE ARMY AND NAVY

OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.



PHILADELPHIA:  
RINGWALT & BROWN, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS,  
111 SOUTH FOURTH STREET.

1862.

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## P R E F A C E .

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OUR Army and Navy have been vastly enlarged, and the work of the Christian Commission is rapidly growing.

Some changes have been recently made, and several addresses and circulars issued to meet the great and growing demands upon the Commission.

To preserve these papers, and to give a more comprehensive embodiment to the information desired by the friends of our Soldiers and Sailors, our Country and our Saviour, we have thrown them together in this form.

Appended, we give also the original address of the Commission.

PHILADELPHIA, *October*, 1862.

## Christian Commission.

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Plans Adopted and Papers Issued, as the Result of  
its Meeting in New York, August, 1862.

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### Officers.

GEO. H. STUART, Esq., *Chairman, 13 Bank St.*

JOS. PATTERSON, Esq., *Treasurer, Western Bank.*

REV. W. E. BOARDMAN, *Secretary, 13 Bank St.*

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### Members of the Christian Commission.

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### Executive Committee.

GEO. H. STUART, *Chairman, Philadelphia.*

REV. BISHOP E. S. JANES, D. D., *New York.*

CHARLES DEMOND, *Boston.*

JOHN P. CROZER, *Philadelphia.*

JAY COOKE, *Philadelphia.*

The accompanying letters are gratifying evidences that the Government cordially approves our plan, and will aid us so far as it lawfully may:

## Letter from President Lincoln.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,  
WASHINGTON, December 12, 1861.}

My Dear Sir—Your letter of the 11th inst. and accompanying plan, both of which are returned as a convenient mode of connecting this with them, have just been received. Your Christian and benevolent undertaking for the benefit of the soldiers is too obviously proper and praiseworthy to admit any difference of opinion. I sincerely hope your plan may be as successful in execution as it is just and generous in conception.

Yours obedient servant,

GEO. H. STUART, Esq.,

A. LINCOLN.

Chairman "Christian Commission,"  
Philadelphia, Pa.

## Letter from the Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT, December 13, 1861.

Sir—This Department approves the object of the "CHRISTIAN COMMISSION," as set forth in the circular announcing their appointment by a convention of the delegates of the Young Men's Christian Associations, held in the City of New York, Nov. 14th and 15th, 1861.

This Department is deeply interested in the "spiritual good of the soldiers in our army," as well as in their "intellectual improvement, and social and physical comfort," and will cheerfully give its aid to the benevolent and patriotic of the land, who desire to improve the condition of our troops.

It confidently looks for beneficial results from so noble an enterprise, and begs you to express to the Commission its sincere wish for the success of this great work in behalf of the soldier.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SIMON CAMERON, Secretary of War.

GEO. H. STUART, Esq.,

Chairman "Christian Commission,"  
Philadelphia, Pa.

## Letter from the Secretary of the Navy.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, December 16, 1861.

*Sir*—I have received your letter of the 11th inst., asking an expression of the Department as to the objects of the “CHRISTIAN COMMISSION,” to promote the welfare of the soldiers, sailors, marines, &c.

The Department will be gratified with any legitimate means to promote the welfare (present and future) of all who are in the service.

*I am, very respectfully,*

*Your obedient servant,*

Mr. GEO. H. STUART,  
Chairman “Christian Commission,”  
Philadelphia.

GIDEON WELLES.

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## Letter from Gen. McClellan,

HEAD QUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, }  
Washington, June 8, 1861. }

GEO. H. STUART, Esq., Philadelphia.

*Dear Sir*—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, informing me of the appointment by the Convention of the Young Men’s Christian Association, of a Commission to take active measures to promote the spiritual and temporal welfare of our soldiers and sailors.

The objects of the Commission are such as meet my cordial approval, and will, if carried out in the proper spirit, prove of great value.

*Very respectfully,*

*Your obedient servant,*

GEO. B. McCLELLAN.

# A D D R E S S

OF

## THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

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The Christian Commission was called into existence by the voice of God, for the war.

The new aspects of our great national struggle, with the vast enlargement of forces employed, demand of us enlargement of plans and a more perfect system for effecting the great purposes of our organization. We accept the increased and increasing responsibilities, as we accepted the work at the first—as from God; and would meet them as God may give us wisdom and means, with all our hearts. Duty to our soldiers and sailors, to our country and our God, demands of us a few earnest words to the public.

The President, the Secretaries of War and of the Navy, and the General in command of our armies, gave us their letters of hearty commendation at the first; the Surgeon General and the Medical Directors of both the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Virginia have given us every facility and encouragement; the Government is now aiding us peculiarly in reaching the camps of the army with stores and publications for distribution; whilst both our delegates, and the stores and publications they distribute, are everywhere received, amongst the wounded on the battle fields and in hospitals,

and by our soldiers in the army, with every demonstration of gladness and gratitude; and in the camps, officers cheerfully call out their men regiment by regiment to hear addresses from our delegates.

A vast army is all open to us. Thousands in the hospitals appeal to us for publications, for libraries and for delegates to aid such chaplains as have more than they can attend to under their charge, and for delegates to supply the place of chaplains where none have been appointed by the Government.

More than a million of men, called into the service of the country, on land and on sea, await Christian influences and benefactions at our hands. And every battle field affords for us, and demands of us, especial help to care for the wounded and to counsel the dying.

Railroad, express and telegraph companies afford us special facilities of transportation and transmission for our men and stores and messages to every point; and our delegates are all volunteers, giving their services freely for the love they bear to the soldiers and sailors, the country and God. And our Young Men's Christian Associations afford us, without charge, every facility in their several localities away from the seat of war for receiving and forwarding stores, or when near, for aiding in their distribution.

Thus one of the grandest special works ever opened to Christian patriots, presents itself to us, whilst an agency to do this great work has been specially provided, which is far-reaching and full of life and energy, and the most economical ever known since the days of the Apostles. Volunteer delegates have all along offered their services in greater numbers than we could commission, and the public have generously responded to every appeal for money and stores. We, therefore, make this address, as well to thank the friends of our cause for their great generosity, as to spread before them our enlarged plans and systematic arrangements for carry-

ing forward the grand work before us; and we do this in the full confidence that neither men, money, publications, nor stores, will be withheld, but freely and abundantly offered in the enlarged measure required.

We, as a Christian Commission, are an alliance of men of many churches, chosen by a Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of many cities and States. All denominational differences are sunk out of mind in the one predominant desire to give true religion, together with every temporal benefit in our power, to the brave men of our army and navy. And God has moved the hearts of His children so deeply, that already the number of boxes and barrels of publications and stores received has reached eight hundred and twenty-six, and the number of delegates commissioned over one hundred. Prominent pastors of churches, together with Christian merchants, and other men of position and influence, have gone as delegates from Philadelphia, and from as far East as Maine—gone without pay, to perform for our suffering heroes such offices as: washing off the filth of helpless days and nights on the battle field, dressing wounds bloody and offensive, and a thousand nameless things that money could not have hired them to do. This, together with the work of ministering to the sick, the wounded, the dying in the hospitals, distributing stores and publications, and holding meetings for prayer both in hospitals and camps, visiting and addressing soldiers in the field regiment by regiment, transmitting messages, letters and packages from their homes to the soldiers and from the soldiers to their homes, and whatever else the case might demand, or Christian sympathy might devise. They have often shared with the soldiers sometimes the hard couch and the hard bread, and sometimes sleepless nights and days without bread or couch, and all not only without pay, but with the greatest cheerfulness; and after having gone once as delegates, they all desire

to go again, and some have gone time after time and spent many weeks in the work.

The fruits of this work cannot be measured. The sick and wounded have been cared for, and in many instances saved from death; the dying have been pointed with prayer to Jesus; the living in the army have been cheered to duty; the swelling tide of vice and intemperance has been in many instances checked; and great numbers have been hopefully converted to God, both in the regiments and in the hospitals. One chaplain furnished by us with books and papers, and aided by one of our delegates in establishing prayer meetings in his regiment, writes that although he has been many years the pastor of a large and prosperous congregation, God has given him the inexpressible delight of seeing *more conversions in his regiment in two months of his chaplaincy than in his congregation during any two whole years of his pastorate.*

Another, the chaplain of one of the largest of our hospitals, says that he has been cheered by many cases of hopeful conversion, and never has known any field so white for the harvest.

Our delegates inform us of many conversions under their own immediate instructions, and of remarkable effects of the truth spoken to our heroes in the field.

After an address upon profanity to one regiment, one captain in dismissing his company said: "Men, mark! never another oath is to be uttered in this company." Another said as much, with the emphasis of assurance that the first man uttering an oath should receive summary punishment. Intelligence comes of a revival in full progress in another regiment; and in another, of prayer meetings on Sabbath in every street of their camp. And facts of similar import reach us day by day.

Our delegates have gone to the fields and field hospitals of the battles of Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Seven-

Pines, the Chickahominy, Malvern Hill, Cedar Mountain, Centreville, Bull Run No. 2, and Fairfax, in Virginia, and South Mountain, Antietam and others in Maryland. Whilst in the west, the bloody field of Shiloh, not to mention others, was visited by a large delegation with ample stores from Chicago, not included in the enumeration given.

Other delegates have been stationed in hospitals destitute of chaplains, and others in hospitals requiring Assistant Chaplains to work on from week to week. And yet others are in the field work, distributing reading matter and stores to soldiers, establishing prayer meetings, and addressing regiments.

Our plans are made; our work systematized; rail road, express and telegraphic facilities secured from distant points to the field; and ambulance facilities in the field; we have efficient local agencies in Baltimore, Washington, Annapolis, St. Louis, Louisville, Chicago, Memphis and at Fortress Monroe; the whole army is open to us; we can extend operations to reach and benefit every regiment; God is blessing us and bidding us go forward; Christian gentlemen of standing, talent and piety offer in abundance to volunteer as delegates; and now all we want, under Divine favor, is money to purchase with and pay the needful expenses, together with publications and stores for distribution upon the enlarged scale of our great army. Two thousand dollars expended in publications would not more than fill the requests of to-day. Our brave soldiers are hungry for religious papers especially. The work and the demand daily increases. Everything given goes where intended, through our own delegates. Now is our opportunity. Golden moments are passing. Let us have money and stores. Send forward what you have in hand. Do not retain money as capital. Send it and collect more if you need capital. Give all and trust God for future supply. And let us together honor God, bless our army and navy, and confer untold

benefit on the country and the world, by an earnest, generous, vigorous prosecution of this great work throughout our entire force, on the land and on the sea.

ROLLIN H. NEALE, *Boston.*  
CHARLES DEMOND, *Boston.*  
E. S. JANES, *New York.*  
JAMES EELIS, *Brooklyn.*  
MITCHELL H. MILLER, *Washington.*  
CLINTON B. FISK, *St. Louis.*  
GEO. H. STUART, *Philadelphia.*  
JOHN P. CROZER, *Philadelphia.*  
JAY COOKE, *Philadelphia.*  
M. L. R. P. THOMPSON, *Cincinnati.*  
JOHN V. FARWELL, *Chicago.*  
JOHN D. HILL, *Buffalo.*

*All moneys should be sent to JOSEPH PATTERSON, Esq., Treasurer, President Western Bank, Philadelphia. All stores to GEO. H. STUART, Esq., Chairman, 13 Bank Street, Philadelphia. All letters to REV. W. E. BOARDMAN, Secretary, 13 Bank Street, Philadelphia.*

# ADDRESS

TO THE

## Young Men's Christian Associations.

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PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 17th, 1862.

DEAR BRETHREN:

At a National Convention of Delegates of the Young Men's Christian Associations, held in the city of New York, November 16, 1861, the Christian Commission for the Army was instituted, to promote the spiritual and temporal welfare of the brave men now in arms to put down a wicked rebellion. The Committee met in Washington and arranged a plan of operations. They propose to aid chaplains in their work, and to supply the lack of service where there are none—

By eliciting the sympathies and prayers of Christians on behalf of our soldiers and sailors;

By furnishing them with Testaments, Hymn and Psalm Books, Tracts, Newspapers, and Regimental, Post, and Hospital Libraries;

By aiding the formation of Christian associations in the various regiments and vessels, and putting them in communication with the Christian public;

By obtaining and directing such gratuitous personal labor as may be practicable among our soldiers and sailors—employing earnest Christians and ministers to preach to them, converse with them, distribute tracts and other publications, and hold prayer meetings among them, and by visiting and relieving the wounded on the battle field, and the sick in hospitals;

By establishing a medium of speedy and safe communication between the men in the army and navy and

their friends at home, by which clothing, books, medicines, and hospital stores can be promptly forwarded and faithfully dispensed, as the exigencies of camp or battle may require.

Besides the mere local work, however, the principal sphere of the Commission's labors has been the army in the field. To the camps and field hospitals, immediately after the battles of Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Island No. 10, Belmont, Fair Oaks, the Seven Days' battles before Richmond, and the recent battles of Bull Run No. 2, Centreville, Fairfax, and those in Maryland, they despatched over one hundred volunteer agents, lay and clerical, laden with all kinds of hospital stores, to nurse, feed and comfort our sick and wounded soldiers. Over one hundred of these agents have gone forth, and others are anxious to be sent. Six hundred and forty-six boxes of hospital stores and reading matter collected in Philadelphia, and partly by the Boston and Brooklyn Associations, have been distributed by our agents, besides large contributions collected and distributed direct by the Army Committees of the St. Louis, Chicago and other Associations. Letters from soldiers, officers, chaplains, the Surgeon General, the Major General and the President attest the value of the aid thus rendered, at these important crises. Several of these gentlemen are still in the field, and accompanying the army in its movements, to whom chaplains and soldiers are continually applying for books, cordials, and those little delicacies which to a sick man are more valuable than medicine, but which are not found in the Government stores. The supply, however, at our disposal by no means meets the present wants of our army, and will be still more inadequate to its prospective increase.

From these statements it appears—

I. That the relation of the Christian Commission to the Young Men's Christian Associations is in no sense one of rivalry, but of cordial help and furtherance.

From them it derived its existence—through their local Associations it does all its local work—being beyond the local work, it employs their members as its agents in fields which no local Association can reach, and furnishes them with the means of bodily and spiritual relief for the army. Receiving and publishing their letters, it brings the Young Men's Christian Associations fully before the Christian public in the most interesting aspect as a ministry to their brothers and sons in the field of war, and thus enlists sympathy and help for the Associations. The Commission aims to combine, and wisely direct, the efforts of the local Associations. The Christian Commission is the Central Army Committee of the Confederation of the Young Men's Christian Associations.

II. That our work of Christian charity is not attempted by any other organization. The Sanitary Commission, and its affiliated aid societies, give their attention to the bodily wants of our soldiers; the various publishing societies aim to furnish food for the mind; the Christian Commission is the only organization which proposes to combine Christian consolation with bodily relief, and to commend the Saviour to the suffering soldier by those deeds of charity which He so emphatically commands His people to perform, and which have such a powerful influence in opening the heart to His teachings.

III. That to carry out the work before them, the relief and edification of an army which will soon number 1,200,000, we need the cooperation of all the Young Men's Christian Associations, and the contributions of all the churches and philanthropists in the land. We are doing a great national work; a work far too vast for any single city or society to attempt. As well might New Jersey, or New York, single-handed, attempt the restoration of the Union, as any local or sectarian society attempt the supply of its armies. This war is a demonstration of the evils of sectarianism and sec-

tionalism in politics; and these evils are still more fatal to the best interests of religion. "United we stand," should be the motto of all Christians at this crisis. The Christian Commission furnishes a central, catholic, active organization, actually in the field and doing this work.

The war grows. Our soldiers are falling daily. There is no time now to waste on the discussion of plans. What is done for the soldier must be done quickly. Young Men of the Christian Associations, fall in! and march to the help of the Lord against the mighty.

In carrying out your operations, permit us to suggest, that if you have not already done so, you should immediately form an Army Committee, to visit the hospitals, camps, or regiments in your vicinity, and to hold prayer meetings with the soldiers, and supply them with books and tracts. This Army Committee should arrange for meeting, if possible, every Sabbath evening, in the various churches, to pray for our country, for the conversion of our soldiers, and for the sick, the wounded and the bereaved. No church would decline the privilege of such a meeting. A deeper interest is aroused by the addresses made and the facts presented by soldiers, chaplains and others at such meetings, and the collections are cheerfully given by the friends and relatives of our soldiers, for supplying them with the means of grace. In those Associations where there is little demand for local work, the collections will be remitted to the Treasurer of the Christian Commission, to aid those nearer to the seat of war. The Boston Association, besides a large amount of religious reading matter and hospital stores, has thus remitted over \$3000, and other Associations, Southern and Western, have been aided. If each of the two hundred Young Men's Christian Associations will thus organize, work, hold meetings, take up collections, and report their work, observations and incidents to the Christian Com-

mission, and will begin to do so immediately, we shall be enabled to extend our work to all the armies of the Republic, and with God's blessing, ere long, to report a Great Revival in the American Army.

ROLLIN H. NEALE, *Boston.*  
CHAS. DEMOND, *Boston.*  
E. S. JANES, *New York.*  
JAMES EELLS, *Brooklyn.*  
MITCHELL H. MILLER, *Washington.*  
GEO. H. STUART, *Philadelphia.*  
JOHN P. CROZER, *Philadelphia.*  
JAY COOKE, *Philadelphia.*  
M. L. R. P. THOMPSON, *Cincinnati.*  
COL. CLINTON B. FISK, *St. Louis.*  
JOHN V. FARWELL, *Chicago.*  
JOHN D. HILL, *Buffalo.*

P. S.—We earnestly beseech Christian young men, in those places where Young Men's Christian Associations do not exist, to meet together immediately and form Army Committees, and report themselves ready for work to the Commission.

All communications and all stores should be addressed to GEO. H. STUART, Chairman, No. 13 Bank Street, Philadelphia; and all moneys sent to JOSEPH PATTERSON, Esq., Treasurer, Western Bank, Philadelphia.

# Circular to Business Men.

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## The Christian Commission,

Organized by a Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations, aims to benefit the army and navy, spiritually and temporally—sends delegates, stores and publications to Camps, Hospitals and Battle grounds.

Its delegates go as volunteers without compensation.

Its stores are sent by Aid Societies, Churches, and friends generally, or purchased by the Commission.

Its Delegates themselves distribute the articles sent to those for whom designed.

The Government approves and commends, and affords all facilities to the Commission. Ambulances are detailed for its use by the Government to enable the Commission to reach all parts of the army.

Christian gentlemen, ministers, lawyers, merchants and others of standing and influence, have gone without charge to the number of more than a hundred, as delegates in various capacities, as chaplains to unsupplied hospitals, assistants to chaplains of hospitals so large as to require more than the services of one chaplain, as assistants to surgeons on the battle field, and as visitors and preachers to soldiers in camp.

Over seven hundred boxes and barrels of publications and stores have been sent to hospitals, camps, and battle fields, and distributed by delegates of the Commission.

Tens of thousands of our wounded and sick soldiers have been visited, instructed and supplied in the hospitals by the Commission, and scores of thousands in the field; and thousands of our brave men, wounded in battle, have been refreshed, cared for and kindly removed by its delegates, in aid of the surgeons to hospitals. The eyes of the dying have been closed in prayer, and the dead buried with Christian rites, whilst the living have been cheered to duty to God and our country.

By these means many have been hopefully converted to God, many restrained from vice, and many saved from death.

The work every day enlarges—its demands are great—can you help? Although there never was an agency so economical for its efficiency, yet for purchases and expenses large sums are required. **The necessities are instant and urgent. Do all you can, and do it now.** Send your money contributions to JOS. PATERSON, Esq., Treasurer, Western Bank, and all stores to GEO. H. STUART, Esq., Chairman, 13 Bank Street.

# Instructions to Donors.

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THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION was organized by the Young Men's Christian Associations, for the purpose of promoting the spiritual and temporal welfare of the army and navy of our Country. It sends its delegates as volunteers to battle-fields, to aid in the care of the wounded on the ground, and in removing them to hospitals; also, to hospitals to aid chaplains where needed, and to act as chaplains in such hospitals and places as have not been supplied by the Government, and to camps of our soldiers in the service.

The stores sent to the Christian Commission, if specially designed for any particular person, or regiment, or hospital, are faithfully sent, without charge, to those for whom they are intended. If sent for distribution where most needed, they are distributed by our own agents or delegates in person.

The demand upon us is daily increasing, and stores of all sorts are urgently needed, especially such as are designated herein. But of all donations, **MONEY IS THE BEST**; we can purchase with it the *right things* at the *right times*, and can purchase at *greatly reduced prices*.

The vast numbers now in the service, and entering it, and the thousands of sick and wounded in the hospitals call loudly upon the people for help, whilst the eagerness of their friends to send help is as great as theirs to receive it. Already more than seven hundred boxes and barrels of books and stores have been sent to our men, and over one hundred gentlemen of the highest respectability have gone as volunteers to distribute them, and to give sympathy, instructions and prayers therewith.

The Commission will endeavor to distribute everything committed to them by everybody, in any and every part of the field, in accordance with the purpose of its organization, accompanying each distribution with the consolations of the gospel.

The following instructions will aid friends of our soldiers and sailors in deciding what to send, and how to pack, and how to direct what they send:

**I. AS TO WHAT TO SEND.—MONEY IS BEST OF ALL.** It is injudicious to spend money or labor for trifling articles. Clothing is greatly needed, such as cotton shirts, woolen shirts, woolen socks, canton flannel drawers, woolen drawers, surgical shirts of the same pattern, but tied with tapes down the sides and sleeves, instead of being sewed; cotton drawers large enough to serve as pants indoors, dressing gowns, slippers, sheets and pillow cases, bandages of muslin, four to six yards long, and three or four inches wide, rolled

up, each by itself but not fastened; lint, picked, (not scraped,) wash-rags, handkerchiefs, and small hair and feather pads for fractured limbs. OF STORES—oatmeal, farina, corn-starch, dried rusks, soda biscuits, jellies, fresh fruits, dried fruits, lemons, white sugar, brandy, wine, bottled ale and porter, beef-tea in cakes, canned meats for soup, good black tea, cranberries, pickles in kegs, good fresh butter in small stone jars, barrels of onions and apples, and tin cups; all these are always wanted. To AID THE SOLDIERS IN CORRESPONDENCE, paper, envelopes and pencils. OF READING MATTER for convalescents, a library is a valuable hygienic appliance, and for the able-bodied, good publications are mental and spiritual food. For convalescents, lively interesting books, the monthlies, the pictorials, the works of science and literature, as well as those for moral and spiritual culture—such as you would put into the hands of a brother after severe illness are such as are wanted; and for the well, also, good interesting books, tracts, and papers. Those designed specially for the soldier and sailor are the best, but send no trash. Our noble men love and deserve those that are fresh and the best. To suspend in the hospital, The Silent Comforter, Green Pastures, and Choice Hymns, are excellent.

**II. AS TO PACKING.**—Never pack perishable articles like eggs, sausages, bread or cakes, nor jars of jellies and jams with other goods. Never send perishable articles unless specially called for, to supply some place to which they can be immediately sent. Pack eatables by themselves, in separate boxes. Tin cans should be always soldered, all other modes are worthless for the army. Stone jars of jellies should be corked and firmly bound with oiled linen, or leather over the cork, and packed in saw dust or hay, in boxes very tight, never exceeding a dozen and a half bottles in a box, and nailed strongly, to bear tipping. Boxes should not be so large that two cannot conveniently lift them into a wagon.

**III. AS TO DIRECTIONS.**—Mark: “GEORGE H. STUART,  
President *Christian Commission*,  
13 BANK STREET, PHILADELPHIA.”

Mark, also:

From———[giving place and donors or Society's name.]

No. 1, 2, 3, &c., [numbering on from the first sent to the last.]

Mark legibly with ink or paint on the boards, (cards rub off.) Send, by mail, an invoice, on paper about this size and written only on one side, specifying the articles, and the marks and numbers of each package, and giving the Post Office address in full to which acknowledgments are to be sent. WRITE PLAIN, give the signature in plain hand, so that it can be read without mistake. If the writer is a man, mention whether or not he is a minister, and if a lady, state whether *Miss* or *Mrs.*

Send all Moneys to JOSEPH PATTERSON, Esq.,  
Treasurer, Western Bank.

# Delegate's Commission.

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No. ....

Office Christian Commission,

No. 13 BANK STREET,

PHILADELPHIA, ..... 186

To the Officers of the Army and Navy of the United States, and others:

The CHRISTIAN COMMISSION, organized by a Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the loyal States, to promote the spiritual and temporal welfare and improvement of the men of the army and navy, acting under the approbation and commendation of the President, the Secretaries of the Army and the Navy and of the Generals in command, have appointed.....

A DELEGATE, to act in accordance with instructions furnished herewith, under direction of the proper officers, in furtherance of the objects of the Christian Commission.

His services will be rendered in behalf of the Christian Commission, without remuneration from, or expense to, the Government.

His work will be that of distributing stores where needed, in hospitals and camps; circulating good reading matter amongst soldiers and sailors; visiting the sick and wounded, to instruct, comfort and cheer them, and aid them in correspondence with their friends at home; aiding surgeons on the battle-field and elsewhere in the care and conveyance of the wounded to hospitals; helping chaplains in their ministrations and influence for the good of the men under their care; and addressing soldiers and sailors, individually and collectively, in explanation of the work of the Christian Commission and its delegates, and for their personal instruction and benefit, temporal and eternal.

All possible facilities, and all due courtesies, are asked for him, in the proper pursuance of any or all of these duties.

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Chairman Christian Commission.

# Instructions to Delegates.

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## Duties of Delegates.

The various duties of Delegates from the CHRISTIAN COMMISSION to *The Field, The Hospital and The Battle Ground*, may be summarily stated as follows:

*Visiting hospitals, camps and battle fields, for the instruction, supply, encouragement and relief of the men of our Army, according to their various circumstances;*

*Distributing stores, where needed, in hospitals and camps;*

*Circulating good publications amongst our soldiers and sailors;*

*Aiding chaplains in their ministrations and influence for the spiritual and temporal welfare of the men under their care;*

*Securing the establishment of HAVELOCK SOCIETIES in the army, according to the printed Constitution supplied by the Christian Commission;*

*Encouraging special and stated meetings for prayer amongst the men in the field and in the hospital;*

*Encouraging soldiers and sailors to communicate freely and frequently with their friends, aiding them to do it, and, if need be, writing for them;*

*Addressing the men personally and collectively, to encourage them in every right way, discourage every vice, give them information from the people and from home, explain the work of the Christian Commission in their behalf, cheer them to duty, and above all persuade them to become reconciled to God through the blood of His Son, if they have not already done so, and if they have, then to be strong in the Lord, resolute for duty, earnest and constant in prayer and fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;*

*And aiding surgeons on the battle field, in the kind care and removal of the wounded, giving them food and drink,*

*and everything needed to mitigate suffering and aid recovery, or if dying, point them with prayer to Jesus, and give them Christian burial.*

Glancing at these several duties, it will be seen that they imply not only three separate fields, but

## Three Classes of Delegates,

Each having duties distinct, and each requiring specific instructions.

### I.

#### DELEGATES TO THE FIELD.

The work of the Christian Commission comprises the supply of field hospitals with such clothing, bedding and stores as their necessities require; the distribution of stores and publications to all in the camps, officers and men; personal individual intercourse with them, to instruct, cheer and win them to Christ, or to stir them up to greater faith and zeal and activity for Christ; aiding and encouraging constant correspondence with their friends, by giving them paper and envelopes, or if need be, writing for them and mailing their letters, and forwarding for them packages to their homes; securing the organization of Havelock Societies, where practicable; encouraging meetings for prayer; aiding chaplains in their public services, and seeking opportunity to address regiments publicly and collectively; addressing them, as delegates of the Christian Commission and as ambassadors for Jesus; and doing whatever else good common sense and warm Christian sympathy and true patriotism may dictate for the temporal and spiritual benefit of the men in the field.

To facilitate this work of the Field, the Christian Commission will, for the regular service, furnish its delegates, if needed, not only with stores, clothing and publication for gratuitous distribution, but wagons and horses for their transportation from the various depots of these things, to the camps where they are to be distributed.

But in case of exigencies demanding it, Brigadiers or Major Generals may be requested to detail ambulances for temporary

use, which they will readily do, as the brave lamented Gen. Kearney and others have cheerfully done.

For the accomplishment of this Field work, it is always desirable to see first the commanding officer of the regiment, brigade, division, or corps, in which it is to be done, and explain it to him. And also see and explain to such other officers as may be convenient and expedient, especially colonels of regiments, chaplains and surgeons.

Officers should always be politely remembered in the distribution to them of such things as they may specially need.

Distribution to the men may be made in various ways, and should be so made as to have the things intended for them actually placed in their hands.

One plan for doing this is, to drive along the line of their tents, or as near as the camp regulations will allow, and suffer the men to come up and receive each for himself such articles as can be given him.

This plan, however, is liable to work both confusion in the camp and inequality of distribution. Crowds are apt to gather around the ambulance, and the least modest are apt to fare the best.

A better plan is that of driving as nearly central to a regiment as convenient; and then passing word along the line to have each company send forward a sergeant, or some other man, to receive the proper share of his company. Then, as the distribution is made, note down with a pencil each company supplied, in order to make sure that none are missed, nor any supplied with a double portion.

Occasions for addresses may be sought or accepted at the times of regular service, or at the close of a dress parade, or by having regiments assembled by order of their commander at any time for the purpose.

Addresses should always be brief, kind, patriotic, breathing of home, earnest and affectionate for the men, and fervent for Christ. No men in the world listen with deeper interest than our brave live volunteers, to living words of truth; none are moved more powerfully by generous and noble sentiments; none more hopeful for the power of the gospel and the labor of the servant of Christ; but they cannot be impressed or moved by abstractions or dry and dull discussions. Like

powder, they are easily fired by the living spark, yet they cannot be moved by all the dead ashes and coals that can be heaped upon them.

## III.

## DELEGATES TO THE HOSPITALS.

The Christian Commission sends men to work in the hospitals as volunteer assistants of chaplains, at the chaplain's request, or to act as volunteer chaplains in such hospitals as have not had chaplains appointed for them by the Government—not to work in hospitals which have chaplains, except when requested to do it. The delegate to the hospital having a chaplain, should therefore report himself first to the chaplain, as ready to assist him, and follow his instructions and counsels. He should also report himself to the medical director of the place, and the surgeon in charge, and his assistants, and work under their approbation. No delicacy, medicine or stimulant should ever be given to the sick especially, or the wounded in the hospitals, without the approbation of a surgeon ; and in all matters at all influencing the recovery of patients, the surgeon's instructions should be sought and implicitly followed.

Free and frequent distribution of good reading matter in the hospitals ; the establishment of stated and frequent meetings for prayer and conference ; the occasional reading of the Scriptures, with singing and prayer, in such wards especially as are occupied by those unable to go out to the stated meetings, together with personal conversation and prayer with individuals, are the chief means by which the delegate can benefit the men of the hospital. And in all this, it is highly desirable not only to secure the approval, but also the aid of the surgeons who are willing to render it.

For their temporal welfare and comfort, the distribution of clothing when needed and not furnished by Government ; aiding the men with paper, envelopes and stamps to write to their friends, and writing for them, in cases requiring it ; and getting or doing anything whatever which may benefit them, are chief amongst the ways to be embraced by the delegate.

## III.

## DELEGATES TO THE BATTLE GROUND.

Difficulties and discouragements are sure to meet those who attempt to reach any field where a battle is raging, or where a battle has just been fought. But no difficulty however great, no obstacle however formidable, short of impossibles and impossibles, should stop any delegate of the Christian Commission this side of the ground where the wounded may die for want of the aid he can render them. If the battle field has fallen into the hands of the enemy, a flag of truce may enable him to reach it, and if it is in the hands of our own army, his feet can carry him there if all other means of conveyance should fail him. Go there he should, however weary the way, great the alarm, or many there may be turning back and dissuading him from going on.

First amongst his accoutrements should be a blanket and strap for swinging it over his shoulders ; second, a haversack with a bottle of brandy, a towel and soap, some crackers and dried beef, or sandwiches, for his own use and to give to the wounded ; third, a bucket to carry water or coffee in, and a cup to serve it out with to the wounded ; fourth, beef-tea in cakes ; fifth, a small lantern and candles and matches for night work ; and sixth, a small Bible to use with the dying and in burying the dead. He should wear a warm undershirt and a blue or other colored shirt over it. Strong plain clothing, strong easy shoes or boots, with a cap or soft hat, make the best personal outfit.

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### General Suggestions.

As the Christian Commission aims to appoint Christian gentlemen as delegates, any suggestions about personal deportment may be superfluous. They understand perfectly well that their work is that of aiding others, not dictating to them. Officers are supreme in the field, and surgeons in the hospital and on the battle ground. All others coming to their aid

should hold themselves subject to orders, and place themselves under orders, and then do with their might whatever work their hands find to do, commanding themselves to God and their own consciences and to officers and surgeons, by the wisdom, energy and efficiency of their service, and by their gentlemanly Christian courtesy to all. Each one should be provided with a pocket memorandum book and pencil, and use them freely in noting facts, names, incidents, dates, and every thing of interest. Also, with paper, pen, ink, envelopes and stamps, for his own use as well as to give to those who need them. *He should report his work often to the office of the Christian Commission, with facts and incidents for publication;* and immediately upon his return from the work, he should report the fact to this office, in person or by letter, in order that the proper record may be made on the books of the Commission.

All faithful chaplains should be sought out and aided as far as possible, and informed that by written application to this office, aid of almost any kind for their work could be obtained and sent to them free of expense.

The circular of the Christian Commission to chaplains and working Christians in the army, should be placed in the hands, or sent to as many as possible, of those for whom it is designed.

And finally, this whole work in any and every department should be pushed with Christ-like earnestness. "Work while it is day," the words of Jesus when about to open the eyes of the blind man found by the wayside; or those other words of His childhood, characteristic of His whole life: "Wist ye not, I must be about my Father's business," should be our watch-words. The wounded and sick in the hospital will soon pass away to the army, or the home, or the judgment—the living in the camp of to-day, may to-morrow be hastened away to the field of carnage. What we do must be done quickly; even so let us do. Amen.

*By order of the Christian Commission,*

GEO. H. STUART, *Chairman.*

PHILADELPHIA, *September 15th, 1862.*

# APPENDIX.

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## Christian Commission,

*As originally organized by a National Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations, Nov. 16, 1861.*

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REV. ROLLIN H. NEALE, D. D., *Boston.*

CHARLES DEMOND, Esq., *Boston.*

REV. BISHOP E. S. JANES, D. D., *New York.*

HON. BENJAMIN F. MANIERRE, *New York.*

REV. BENJAMIN C. CUTLER, D. D., *Brooklyn.*

MITCHELL H. MILLER, Esq., *Washington.*

GEO. H. STUART, Esq., *Philadelphia.*

JOHN P. CROZER, Esq., *Philadelphia.*

REV. M. L. R. P. THOMPSON, D. D., *Cincinnati.*

COL. CLINTON B. FISKE, *St. Louis.*

JOHN V. FARWELL, Esq., *Chicago.*

JOHN D. HILL, M. D., *Buffalo.*

CEPHAS BRAINERD, *Sec'y of the Convention.*

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## ADDRESS.

OFFICE OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION, }  
New York, Jan. 13th, 1862. }

The Christian Commission met in Washington, and arranged a plan of operations which they now submit to the public, and call upon the friends of the soldier to aid them in their work.

Their object is to promote the spiritual and temporal welfare of the brave men who now are in arms to put down a wicked rebellion.

They propose to do this by aiding the chaplains and others in their work—

1st. By furnishing to them religious tracts, periodicals and books.

2d. By aiding in the formation of religious associations in the several regiments.

3d. By putting such associations in correspondence with the Christian public.

4th. By cultivating, as far as possible, the religious sympathies and prayers of Christians in their behalf.

5th. By obtaining and directing such gratuitous personal labor among the soldiers and sailors as may be practicable.

6th. By improving such other opportunities and means as may in the providence of God be presented.

7th. By furnishing, as far as possible, profitable reading, other than religious, and, wherever there is a permanent military post, by establishing a general library of such works.

8th. By establishing a medium of speedy and safe intercommunication between the men in the army and navy and their friends and families, by which small packages of clothing, books and medicines, and mementoes of social affection can be interchanged.

Gentlemen, well-known and of high character, in various cities, have generously offered to give the time and attention needed to carry out this plan, and we hope to be able to appropriate to the benefit of the soldiers, all contributions entrusted to us, with a small expense for intermediate agencies.

But we need money to provide religious and other reading for the army, and a very large sum can be judiciously and profitably used in this way.

The Bible, Tract, and other benevolent publishing Societies will aid us, but they need funds. We must purchase books to a large extent, or leave many of the soldiers destitute.

It is hoped that editors and publishers will furnish papers and books gratuitously, or at reduced prices. Second-hand books, also, will be welcomed gratefully by the soldier, and will be of value in making up the contemplated libraries.

All contributions of books, and all packages and articles designed for the soldiers, may be sent to any member of the Commission, or of the District Committees, which will soon be published, or to the rooms of any Christian Association in the land, and they will be cared for and forwarded.

Articles directed to any particular soldier, company, or regiment, will be carefully conveyed, the donor furnishing money to pay the expressage.

Articles not particularly directed, will be distributed as the Commission shall deem best.

Contributions in money may be sent to any member of the Commission, or to the District Committees, or to the Treasurer.

All communications should be addressed to the Secretary and Treasurer, Hon. Benj. F. Manierre, 2½ Wall St., New York.

There are over 700,000 men now in the army and navy, who have left the comforts of home to endure hardship, and it may be die for us. A large number of them have now no means of religious instruction, and all are exposed to the demoralizing influences of war. We propose to encourage in them whatever is good, and keep fresh in their remembrance the instructions of earlier years, and to develop, organize and make effective the religious element in the army and navy.

The field is open to us. We can have free access to their immortal souls—the chaplains desire and call for our aid—the Government wish it—and the men ask for and receive religious reading and teaching, with an eagerness most touching.

Thousands, who at home never entered the house of God, and had none to care for their souls, now in imminent peril, desire to know of Him who can give them the victory over death, through our Lord Jesus Christ. The time is short—what we do must be done quickly.

Brethren and friends, we have made known to you our purposes and plan of operation. Our appeal is in

the soldiers' behalf. It is for your sons and brothers, and for many, too, who have no parents or near relatives, that this work is undertaken. We beseech you by all that is valuable in our national institutions, nay, by all that is inspiring in the Christian faith, and comforting in the hope of heaven, that you come promptly forward to encourage and sustain these young men in their patriotic service, and to secure to them those precious spiritual blessings which are needed every where and at all times, but especially by those whose lives are in jeopardy every hour, who are subject to suffering and want, and at any moment may be called to die on the field of battle, far away from their fathers' sepulchres.

GEORGE H. STUART,  
BENJ. F. MANIERRE,  
EDWARD S. JANES,  
CHAS. DEMOND,  
BENJ. C. CUTLER,

*Executive Committee.*

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### Plan of Operation,

1st. The office of the Commission shall be in the city of New York. [Changed now to Philadelphia.]

2d. There shall be an Executive Committee of five, who shall have full power to act for the Commission, subject to its approval, and shall report their action to the Commission at each meeting.

The Committee shall correspond with all other committees of the Commission, and with all the Associations and other bodies who may co-operate with us, giving them such information and suggestions as will encourage and quicken them in their work, and shall also report their proceedings monthly through the press, giving

credit to all societies and individuals who may contribute to the purposes of the Commission.

The Executive Committee may convene the Commission when they judge it necessary.

3d. There shall be a General Committee of three in the city of New York, who with the Treasurer, shall receive all the contributions of books and other articles given for the objects of the Commission, apportion and forward the same to the committees hereinafter mentioned.

4th. The field shall be divided into as many districts as may be found necessary. Each district shall have a committee of three, to be appointed by the Commission, but who need not be members of the same, who shall receive, divide, and forward the books and all other contributions furnished, as in their judgment the necessities may be found to exist; and shall also, in their respective districts, superintend all the operations, and promote all the interests contemplated by this Commission.

For this purpose they shall open a correspondence with one or more chaplains in each brigade in their respective districts.

Where a regiment is found without a chaplain, they shall request the chaplain of some other regiment in the brigade to visit the regiment, and seek out the pious officers and soldiers and induce them to form a religious association, to establish social meetings and distribute religious publications, &c.

They shall also correspond with the proper army officers, so as to be informed of the changes in the position of the different regiments, and of the facilities that may exist for carrying out the objects of the Commission.

The committee shall serve gratuitously, and shall report their proceedings, and such interesting facts concerning the work, as they may be able to gather, at least monthly to the Executive Committee.

Each committee is authorized to pay such clerks as they may find it impracticable to obtain gratuitously, and to incur such other incidental expenses as are unavoidable, the funds furnished being considered as trust funds.

It is understood to be the duty of the Army Committees of the Christian Associations, to procure funds, books, and periodicals for the benefit of the Army, and of each District Committee to act in conjunction with them ; but where no such Association exists, the District Committee shall take measures to raise funds and contributions, receipt for the same, and report them to the Treasurer of the Commission.

5th. The Executive Committee, in conjunction with the District Committees, shall at once take measures to organize a plan by which the intercommunication between the men in the army and navy and their friends may be carried out, and communicate the same to the Christian Associations and the public as soon as matured.

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